

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:04 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Tong Sangmeister

Absent: Brett Waterfield (excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director, Parks, Recreation and Marine
J.C. Squires, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer, Planning and Development Bureau
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Programs Bureau
Bill Greco, Acting Chief Park Ranger
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Gerrie Schipske, Councilwoman, 5th District
Stacia Mancini, 5th District Council Office

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner George to excuse the absence of Commissioner Brett Waterfield. The motion carried unanimously.

President Saltzgaver thanked Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske for the Christmas breakfast she provided this morning.

Ms. Schipske thanked the Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Department staff for their work. She said that the Department's programs are very important and also helped raise her three kids and a lot of kids in the town. She said that the Department is of vital importance to the city and she hoped that her staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Department could work together. She said she is very appreciative for all they do.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2006

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the November 16, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION FOR DECEMBER

President Saltzgaver stated that the December Employee of the Month was unable to attend and will be announced at the January meeting.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#06-1201

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Saltzgaver stated that there were no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

#06-1202

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR E. JANE DAVIS

Mr. Hester stated that this bench would be located at the end of Naples Plaza and the family is covering the cost. This is consistent with the design of previous benches.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench for E. Jane Davis. The motion carried unanimously.

#06-1203

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR ANDY AND ROSE CAPIC

Mr. Hester stated that this is a second bench request for the end of Naples Plaza, with the cost being covered by the family, and is consistent with previous benches.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner George to approve the placement and installation of the memorial bench for Andy and Rose Capic. The motion carried unanimously.

#06-1204

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A PERMIT WITH LOS ALTOS YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL OF LONG BEACH, INC. FOR THE NONEXCLUSIVE USE OF SPORTS FIELDS

Ms. Chrissy Marshall stated that about a year ago, Los Altos Little League had a change to Cal Ripkin Organization. This is just a housekeeping item to make it official that this team's permit is issued listing the correct agency.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a youth sports permit with Los Altos Youth Baseball and Softball of Long Beach, Inc., commencing on January 1, 2006 and expiring on February 22, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that he met with Mr. Hester and discussed the agenda.

1) Discussion of off-site meeting locations.

President Saltzgaver stated that he received only a few suggestions and has put together a proposed meeting schedule, which was included in the packet. He is proposing off-site meetings at Admiral Kidd Park on March 15, at MacArthur Park on June 21, and at Bixby Park on September 20. He said he would be open to any other suggestions.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to adopt the meeting schedule for 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet this month, but the information was included in the packet.

Mr. J.C. Squires distributed a revised financial report to the Commissioners. He said that they would start looking at budget projections on a monthly basis and the analysts would start working on that next month. They will be getting monthly financial statements to see where the Department is on the budget projections.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee did not meet this month. A report was included in the packet.

Mr. Bill Greco stated that they tried to put together a small undercover operation at Ramona Park with the Police Department, to catch gang members who have been spraying graffiti in the park.

Mr. Hester stated that there has been good coordination between the Police Department and the Park Rangers watching over that area.

Mr. Hester introduced Ted Stevens, the new Department Safety Officer. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is one of three or four departments who have a safety officer. Mr. Stevens is quite helpful in making sure that the Department's facilities and buildings and employees are safe.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee met this month. They will be scheduling a meeting with the Director, prior to their next meeting in March, to discuss direction of the Committee.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee meets quarterly and they would meet in January.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that this would continue to be an extremely important committee as they go forward.

Mr. Hester stated that he has a meeting with the Superintendent of Long Beach Unified School District and facility use would be one of the topics.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone stated that the Committee did not meet this month. He said that Mr. Geoff Hall informed the dog walkers of the Parks and Recreation Commission's extension to the pilot program.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2006

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were no comments or questions.

President Saltzgaver stated that the Houghton Park community center was open to use by the Red Cross after the area fire in North Long Beach.

Ms. Chrissy Marshall stated that the facility was used for case management and was not needed as a shelter. Jordan High School was used as a shelter for those displaced by the fire.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for October 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Saltzgaver stated that no correspondence was received.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

Mr. Hester stated that updated lists of the Parks and Recreation Commission Committees were included in the packet.

Commissioner Guerra requested that the contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses for staff be added to the listing.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING "ROSA PARKS PARK" AS THE POTENTIAL NAME FOR THE NEW PARK TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT 15TH STREET AND ALAMITOS AVENUE

Mr. Hester stated that this item was brought to the City Council by then Councilwoman Laura Richardson, who has an interest in developing this property, which was purchased by the Community Development Department, as a park. The Councilwoman has recommended to the City Council that this park be named "Rosa Parks Park." The City Council forwarded this to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration, to report back to the City Council's Housing and Neighborhoods Committee. The name is consistent with

the existing City policy on naming facilities. Staff would be coming back to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a plan recommendation, at a later date.

President Saltzgaver asked if Orange Avenue would be vacated with this project.

Ms. Anna Mendiola responded that Orange Avenue would not be vacated; it would be realigned to more of a T shape instead of a Y, so there would be a much safer turning radius.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that Rosa Parks Park is an appropriate name for the new park being developed on 15th Street and Alamitos Avenue in Central Long Beach. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 2005 LONG BEACH PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report and authorize the Director to forward it to the City Council. The motion carried unanimously.

C. SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROPOSAL PRESENTATION – GEOFF HALL

Mr. Hester stated that Mr. Hall worked with the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) on a very good proposal to bring the Special Olympics corporate headquarters to Long Beach. This was submitted to the Special Olympics Executive Director on Tuesday. We think we have a very good proposal and they are excited about the things the city can offer. We received letters of support from California State University of Long Beach, Long Beach Community College, Long Beach Unified School District, the Mayor, Councilmembers, business and community members, Supervisor Don Knabe, and Sheriff Baca. The CVB also offered some financial incentives to the Special Olympics. There are several commercial properties available in Long Beach that are cheaper than what the Special Olympics are paying right now in Culver City. The Special Olympics would like to make an announcement in March on the new site. The City worked with the CVB and also submitted a really good video encouraging the Special Olympics to come back to Long Beach. There is a very good chance of them moving to Long Beach.

X. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Squires stated that Partners of Parks is in transition. Their last board meeting for the sitting board members will be January 16, at 10:00 a.m., in the large conference room. They will propose and adopt the new officers. They have 15 highly qualified volunteers who will spend the next three or four months organizing the policy, procedures, vision, scope, and all they need to do to reorganize. They will follow this up with a membership drive in the spring to add another 50 to 75 people to that group. He invited the Commissioners to attend this meeting and thank the old board for their work.

Mr. Squires stated that the El Dorado Tennis Center held a national tournament in November. A team also came in from New Zealand. They received a lot of complements for the tennis operator, who is doing a great job.

Ms. Marshall distributed flyers for "Snow Days in Long Beach," which will be held at the regional parks on January 6, sponsored by the Department only. The Police Department is co-sponsoring a "Snow Day" at 14th Street Park on December 28. This is a second in a series of events co-sponsored with the Police Department, due to an increase in crime in that area. The first event was a "Movie in the Park" at 14th Street Park. Councilmember O'Donnell is also co-sponsoring a "Snow Day" at Whaley Park on January 27.

Ms. Anna Mendiola requested that the Commissioners save the date of February 24, for the next KaBOOM! playground build at Orizaba Park. The Department is partnering with JetBlue and Partners of Parks to build this playground.

Mr. Hester stated that staff would let the Commission know the date of the official reopening of Admiral Kidd Teen and Community Center. It would probably be in late January or early February. They will also be planning the opening of the King Pool expansion and would get that information to the Commissioners. Staff would like to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission for a great year and this next year will be even better.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Guerra asked why there were no lights on the median on Daisy Avenue during the Daisy Christmas Tree Lane Parade.

Mr. Hester responded that staff discovered that the electrical on the medians were not safe. People had volunteered to do the electrical work for the Daisy Avenue median and it was not safe. The Special Events and Filming Bureau tried to work with the community and make improvements, but only a limited amount of City resources are allocated to that event. In the past, they have done a lot of poor spending. This is the most expensive special event that the City sponsors. Some adjustments were made in the lighting and the Department is working with the Council office and will meet with the committee in January to find out what direction they want to take in the future. There will be some changes in the coming year.

XI. **NEXT MEETING**

President Saltzgaver stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission will have a table at the State of the City Address and he strongly urged the Commissioners to attend. He also strongly urged staff to have the Chamber introduce the Parks and Recreation Commission this year. He stated that it was a pleasure working with everyone.

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at El Dorado Park West, in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine